

Claims

I claim:

1. A plastid transformation and expression vector for stably transforming a plastid, wherein the vector comprises an expression cassette comprising, as operably linked components:
 - a plastid promoter which is operative in said plastid,
 - a selectable marker sequence,
 - a heterologous DNA coding sequence for a cytotoxic antimicrobial peptide (AMP) of a magainin family or an analog of the magainin family,
 - a transcription termination sequence functional in said plastid, andflanking each side of the expression cassette, a flanking DNA sequence which is homologous to a DNA sequence of a plastid genome, whereby stable integration of the heterologous DNA coding sequence into the plastid genome of a target plant's cell is facilitated through homologous recombination of the flanking DNA sequence with a homologous sequence in the plastid genome.